



# NEWS RELEASE

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### ***SBA ADMINISTRATOR ALVAREZ CO-HOSTS FIRST USA/CANADA BUSINESSWOMEN'S SUMMIT***

**WASHINGTON – Aida Alvarez, Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration, will co-host the first USA/Canada Businesswomen's International Trade Summit with Sergio Marchi, Minister for International Trade for Canada, and William Daley, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce, in Toronto May 17-21, 1999.**

Nearly 250 U.S. and Canadian women business leaders will tackle international trade issues and make policy recommendations to top U.S. and Canadian officials.

**“With \$1 billion in trade crossing our mutual border every day of the year, Canada is our country's largest trading partner. The number of women-owned firms is growing rapidly in both countries. It just makes sense to help women entrepreneurs on both sides of our border increase their international trade opportunities,”** said SBA Administrator Alvarez. **“This trade summit will help to open doors of opportunity on both sides of the border.”**

This summit is the result of SBA's coordinated efforts with the Canadian Embassy and the U.S. Department of Commerce to recognize the dynamic rate of growth of women's entrepreneurship in the United States and Canada, and the important contribution American and Canadian women-owned businesses have made to their national economies. Women-owned businesses provide employment for 24 million Americans and for 1.7 million Canadians.

**-more-**

Women-owned firms represent nearly 40 percent of all U.S. firms. Between 1987 and 1997, the number of women-owned firms increased by more than 89 percent nationwide, outpacing overall business growth by two to one.

Canada has about the same share of women business owners – about 35 percent. It's estimated that early in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, women will own fully half of all U.S. businesses.

The message is clear: exports equal earnings. Exporting is a vehicle for job creation. International markets help businesses grow.

This summit will also provide an opportunity for U.S. and Canadian businesswomen who are ready to do business across the border to develop mutually beneficial commercial relationships.

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# **USA/CANADA BUSINESSWOMEN'S TRADE SUMMIT 1999**

## **U.S. PARTICIPANTS**

### **California**

Sharon Eberhardt  
Controller, Zipco Inc.  
Sun Valley

Pamela Gideon-Hawke  
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Los Angeles

Judy Hooker  
Owner, Jackson Hewitt Tax Service  
Rancho Cordova

Jung Kim  
President, Lasertech Applications Inc.  
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Patricia Kim  
Manager, Sales and Marketing, Lasertech  
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Sam Lee  
Application Engineer, Lasertech  
Applications Inc.  
Los Angeles

### **Colorado**

Dona Stuart  
President, Dona Stuart Designs  
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### **Florida**

Marilyn Wiles  
President and CEO  
Alert and Enterprising Women's Leadership Institute  
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Snookie Lomow  
President, Snookie Lomow & Associates  
San Francisco

Carol Loy  
Partner, The Next Dimension  
Laguna Niguel

Nancy Montoya  
Principal, Montoya Associates  
Santa Ana

Karina Redburn  
Owner/President, Zipco International  
Sun Valley

Syndi Seid  
President and Founder, Advanced Etiquette  
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D'Neane Wilkinson  
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Market Access International Inc.  
Smyrna

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Carolyn Stradley  
President, C&S Paving  
Marietta

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Chicago

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President and Founder, LEAD Group  
International  
Itasca

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Barrington

Lauren Leifer  
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The Martin Group Inc.  
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President, The Scashi Company  
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Dr. Hazel Wagner  
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## **Indiana**

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Huntington

## **Kansas**

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## **Maine**

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Technology Inc.  
Clinton

Alma Cravins-Essex  
President and CEO, Applied Quality  
Communications Inc.  
Oxon Hill

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Potomac

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Greenbelt

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Brighton

Coco Raynes  
President, Coco Raynes Associates, Inc.

Bea Riley  
President, Bedok Exports  
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Taro

## **Michigan**

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Novi

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## **Minnesota**

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Phyllis Hannan  
President, Laser Light Technologies  
Hermann

Linda Jacobsen  
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St. Charles

## **Montana**

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